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tianity spread. Many a liberal Protestant historian betrays a pessimistic judgment of the blending of Greek thought with the Palestinian movement, but M. Guignebert's undogmatic mind notes with approval the gain thereby of an extraordinary power of adaptability and universality, while he also reflects with approval on the limits set to this process as a safeguard against the limitless and dispersive speculation inherent in Hellenism. A good illustration of sound judgment is afforded by the discussion of the Christianity of Domitian's victims, Flavius Clemens, Domitilla, Acilius Glabrio. In Guignebert's view they were Jewish proselytes inclined toward the Christian church but remaining at its border, while their descendants entered fully into the Christian faith. Such a judgment comports with the data of Dion Cassius and Suetonius and with the facts of archaeology.

FRANCIS A. CHRISTIE.

#### BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

*Geschichte von Venedig.* Von HEINRICH KRETSCHMAYR. Erster Band (bis zum Tode Enrico Dandolos). (Gotha: F. A. Perthes. 1905. Pp. xvii, 522.)

HEEREN and Ukert's *Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, begun almost a century ago and continued latterly under the vigorous guidance of Professor Karl Lamprecht as *Allgemeine Staatengeschichte*, experiences an increase with the present volume which falls in no respect below the high level of the series. Dr. Kretschmayr brings an admirable combination of scholarly training and intellectual vigor to the service of his undertaking. He writes from the sources, treating them with carefully balanced reserve and daring; with all due respect for the hoary traditions of a famous city he is not blinded to their habitual misrepresentation of historical facts; and he studies Venice not merely as a government but as a people, mounting step by step from the primitive conditions of a sparsely disseminated group of fishermen to the material splendor and moral energy of one of the most fascinating civilizations of all time. Only the generous scale of the book, permitting a very ample treatment of every phase of Venetian development, can prevent this work from replacing every previous history of the Republic in the library of the general reader; on the shelves of the student it will take immediately a pre-eminent position. It is apparent throughout that the author has been filled with the desire not to sacrifice the fair bride of the Adriatic to the Moloch of dry scholarship: he has given his page a more literary look by relentlessly confining the foot-notes within the limbo of an appendix; and he never relaxes his effort to interest as well as to instruct his readers, and to keep unimpaired before their eyes the image of the whole unobscured by a too luxuriant detail. Nevertheless when we ask ourselves if the vast mass of raw material in this book has been leavened to the lightness of a genuinely artistic product, we are obliged to give at best a qualified

assent. So difficult a thing it is to mate the passion for facts with the artistic temper.

We get an immediate taste of the thoroughness and originality of the author's scholarship on taking up his treatment of the difficult question of Venetian origins. In this particular investigation he found himself confronted with a body of tradition, arbitrarily invented by the early chroniclers and elaborated with patriotic intent by the official historiographers of the Renaissance. Fortunately the minute analysis to which the Venetian chronicles have recently been subjected by Simonsfeld and Monticolo and the illuminating labors of Hegel, Hartmann, and others on the period of the Germanic settlements in Italy have cleared the way for a new presentation. This we get in an admirably secure and connected narrative of the beginnings of government and civilization within the lagoons. The author's general tendency is to restrict considerably the scope of the boasted Venetian independence, and to reduce the growth of the city to the ordinary terms of Italian life in the Lombard and Carolingian epochs. Venice becomes in consequence a very small and insignificant settlement, subject to the Emperor of the East long after the fabled election by popular acclaim of an independent duke in 697, and saved from the Emperor of the West only by the ever precarious position of that potentate. If the city loses some of the veneer of a republican dignity of immemorial antiquity it gains much more than it surrenders by taking a credible place in the organic development of the peninsula.

Students of the Italian communes will be particularly interested in the development of the doge and in the beginnings of those institutions which, during the general instability of political affairs in the period of the Renaissance, aroused the envy of all the wayward neighbors of the Republic. In this field, too, the author is inclined to make considerable subtraction from the vaunted democracy which, according to the current account, was the birth-right of the free folk of the lagoons. The dogate has two periods: until the twelfth century it is an absolutism, tempered, in the manner of absolutisms, by assassination; beginning approximately with 1172, it is converted into a constitutional monarchy. In the matter of this conversion the author maintains a very interesting point of view. The traditional presentation of the reduction of the doge's power predicates a revolution covering the period 1172-1179, during which a league of the great families took the helm and created a series of checks upon the doge by setting up all those institutions—the great council, the small council, the *quaranta*, etc., by which the government acquired its definitive form. Following the conclusions of Lenel the author scouts the opinion that the oligarchical régime received its final shape in a sudden upheaval of the twelfth century, and makes out a very plausible case for the gradual development of the Venetian constitution along the general lines of the neighboring communes of northern Italy. Here again Venice loses something of that uniqueness

which has always made it a kind of *lusus naturae* of the Middle Age, but does not become a less attractive product of civic energy by being assimilated to the general laws of medieval growth. Since volume I. does not go beyond the death of Enrico Dandolo (died 1205) we have yet to await the author's development of the victory of the oligarchy. It will be particularly interesting, in view of the submitted analogy of the Lombard cities, to see how he explains the absence in Venice of that reaction against the great families which converted the cities of Lombardy into despots.

But, as has already been said, the work is no mere constitutional study. It takes into account all the forces which played a part in the development of Venetian civilization, furnishing novel and reliable information on the relation of church and state, commerce and industry, shipbuilding, and the fine arts. Is the student interested in the long and confusing struggle of the patriarchs of Grado and Aquileia? He will find here a swift and authoritative review of their remarkable rivalry. The economic expansion by which Venice was enabled to enter the capitalistic stage ahead of almost all other medieval states, and thus to reduce a considerable portion of the Mediterranean world to dependence on herself, receives wise and thorough attention. The foundation the author lays in this respect makes it possible, too, to show how it was largely the pressure of capitalistic forces which drew Venice into the Fourth Crusade and raised Dandolo to the proud height of conqueror of Constantinople. He denies, however, that the capitalistic agents acted consciously from the first, and upholds the much combated view that the turning aside of the crusade to Greece was in the nature of an accident. As the fine arts are treated with the same understanding as the economic and political problems of the city, the student of this field will be delighted with a very careful and valuable disquisition on Venice as the battle-ground of Lombard (or Italian) and Byzantine influences.

Much remains calling for attention in this great store-house of fact. Suffice it to say that Appendix I. contains a masterly discussion of the sources of the period, and to add, not without regret, that, as in the case of so many German books, the paper is poor and the binding atrocious.

FERDINAND SCHWILL.

*Venice. Its Individual Growth from the Earliest Beginnings to the Fall of the Republic.* By POMPEO MOLMENTI. Translated by HORATIO F. BROWN. Two volumes. Part I., *The Middle Ages.* (Chicago: A. C. McClurg and Co.; London: John Murray. 1906. Pp. ix, 223; viii, 237.)

THE title of this book wrongs both the author and his readers by conveying an inadequate conception of the contents. Why the author should have hesitated to send out his work under some name clearly